

DRAFT DISCUSSION PAPER

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE
AUGUST 14, 1995

Introduction

The appropriate scope of analysis and action for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program) has been under discussion for the past two months. Establishing an appropriate geographic and issue scope is essential to the success of the Program. A scope that is too narrow, while expedient, may result in issues not being addressed in a comprehensive fashion. A scope that is too large may result in an overly complex planning process causing difficulty in developing implementable solutions.

An approach which has evolved through both technical and public forum discussions is to use a tiered geographic scope focusing on the Bay-Delta system for purposes of problem definition, while allowing solution generation over a much broader area. Specifically, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program proposes to address problems which are manifest in the Suisun Bay/Suisun Marsh and Delta area. However, the scope of possible solutions to those problems would encompass any action which can be implemented or influenced by the CALFED agencies to address the identified problems, regardless of whether its implementation takes place within the Delta/Suisun Bay/Suisun Marsh area (see figure 1).

Geographic and Issue Scope for Problems

The geographic scope for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program will consist of the legally defined Delta, Suisun Bay (extending to the Carquinez Strait) and Suisun Marsh. For purposes of this Draft Discussion Paper, this geographic area will be simply called the "Delta".

Any problem currently associated with (1) the management and control of water or (2) the beneficial use of water within the Delta¹ (including both environmental and economic uses)

¹ The California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Sections 660 - 674, lists a number of beneficial uses of water in California. Beneficial uses which are relevant to the identification of Delta problems are: Domestic Uses; Irrigation Uses; Municipal Use; Industrial Use; Fish and Wildlife Preservation and Enhancement Use; Aquaculture Use; Recreational Use; Water Quality Use; and Heat Control Use.

Temperature inflows

Temperature outflows

Water diversion patterns

Water quality constituents in diversions

Entrainment of biota in diversions

Examples of problems which would be outside the purview of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program because they fail to qualify from either perspective include:

- Problems caused by discharges from wastewater treatment plants in the South San Francisco Bay.
- Land subsidence in the Central Valley.
- Populations of fish in reservoirs.

Geographic and Issue Scope for Solutions

In contrast to the PROBLEM SCOPE, which excludes problems not manifested within or closely linked to the Delta, the SOLUTION SCOPE is quite broad, potentially including any action which could help solve identified problems. Thus, the geographical scope for solutions would expand to include at least the Central Valley watershed, the area served by the Southern California water system, and the Pacific Ocean.

An expanded solution scope is necessary because many problems related to the Delta are caused by factors outside the Delta. Moreover, an expanded solution scope is desirable from a planning point of view because more benefits may be generated at lower cost if solutions are not limited to the geographic Delta. For example, the problem of salmon populations is linked to the Delta because of high salmon mortality during salmon migrations. However, the problem of salmon populations goes far beyond the Delta. One response would be to reduce salmon mortality during salmon migration through the Delta. However, it might be less expensive or ecologically preferable to promote greater salmon production upstream.

Similarly, if water-borne organic carbon generated within the Delta is deemed to be a problem because it may form carcinogens during water treatment processes, one solution would be to reduce the production of organic carbon within the Delta or to shift the diversion point. Alternatively, water exporters may be able to improve water quality in a more cost-effective or ecologically preferable manner through new treatment technologies.

institutional constraints, the Program may need to include recommendations to improve existing processes, include new actions in its various alternatives, or mobilize the CALFED agencies to advance the existing processes. In this way, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program will provide a framework to demonstrate how new and existing programs should be coordinated to achieve a comprehensive and lasting solution.

